

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PRS-01 PA-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 RSR-01 /047 W
----- 034731

R 231628Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5278

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RADIO TV SITREP

REF: SANTIAGO 3692

1. RADIO AGRICULTURA BACK ON AIR AFTER EIGHT HOUR CLOSURE AUG 20-21 (REFTEL) WHILE SUPREME COURT NAMED JUDGE TO LOOK INTO MATTER AFTER PROTEST BY AGRICULTURA DIRECTORS CLAIMED MOVE ILLEGAL. CLOSURE ORDER CAME FROM SANTIAGO PROVINCE GOVERNOR JULIO STUARDO WHO ISSUED STATEMENT THAT AGRICULTURA AND MINERIA HAD BEEN "GIVING INFORMATION WHICH UPSETS PUBLIC ORDER, PEACE AND SOCIAL TRANQUILITY" STUARDO STATEMENT CLAIMS RADIO COMMENTARIES ALSO ATTEMPTED "DAMAGE IMAGE OF...ARMED FORCES". MEANWHILE, STUARDO FILED LEGAL CHARGES AGAINST AGRICULTURA DIRECTOR ALVARO PUGA.

2. RADIO MINERIA SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT STATION EXPECTED CLOSURE AUG 20 BUT ONLY SUFFERED 20-HOUR POWER CUT-OFF. THANKS TO OWN GENERATORS MINERIA REMAINED ON AIR FOR ALL BUT TWO HOURS OF PERIOD. OFFICIAL DECLARATION CLAIMED THAT LACK OF ELECTRICITY DUE "REPAIR WORK" REQUIRED AS RESULT AUG 13 ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP POWERE LINES. " IT OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY CUT OFF ELECTRICAL SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS TO EFFECT REPAIRS" GOC RELEASE SAID.
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STATEMENT NOTED SIMILAR CUT-OFFS WOULD BE REQUIRED UNTIL ENTIRE

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REPAIRED, PERHAPS IMPLYING OPPOSITION RADIOS MAY BE IN FOR ADDITIONAL HARASSMENTS. OTHER TECHNIQUE IS CUTTING TELEPHONE LINES, EMPLOYED AGAINST MINERIA ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, ACCORDING TO MINERIA SOURCE.

3. ON TV FRONT, SANTIAGO COURT OF APPEALS REJECTED REQUEST FROM NATIONAL TV COUNCIL ASKING THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR CARRY OUT ORDER TO SHUT OFF ELECTRICAL POWER TO CHANNEL 9 AND HAVE POLICE EVACUATE "ILLEGAL" OCCUPANTS. ACCORDING TO AUG 21 OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE (OIR) RELEASE, COURT OF APPEALS VOTE WAS TWO TO ONE REJECTING REQUEST. OIR STATEMENT GRATUITOUSLY ADDS DISSENTING VOTE CAST BY SAME JUDGE WHO DECLARED FORMER GOC SECRETARY GENERAL ANIBAL PALMA "REO" (UNDER ACCUSATION). HOWEVER, UNIVERSITY UNDERSTOOD STILL SEEKING OTHER MEANS FORCE STATION OFF AIR.

4. COMMENT: OPPOSITION RADIOS PLAYED VITAL ROLE KEEPING CHILEAN PUBLIC INFORMED, NOT ALWAYS WITH COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY OR ACCURACY OF RAPIDLY BREAKING EVENTS O PAST WEEKEND. CHANNEL 13 WITH ITS

TWO NIGHTLY NEWSCASTS AGAIN PROVED MORE RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEDIA SOURCE.
HALSEMA

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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